United Nations A/52/6 (Sect. 4)

General Assembly
Fifty-second session

9 May 1997

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999*

Part II Political affairs

Section 4
Peaceful uses of outer space

(Programme 3 of the medium-term plan for the biennium 1998-2001)

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* The present document contains section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999. The complete proposed programme budget will subsequently be issued in final printed form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/52/6/Rev.1).

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Section 4
Peaceful uses of outer space
(Programme 3 of the medium-term plan for the biennium 1998-2001)

Overview

4.1 In 1959, when space activities were in their infancy, the General Assembly recognized the need for a mechanism to ensure broad international cooperation in space activities. By its resolution 1472 (XIV) of 12 December 1959, the Assembly established the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and mandated it to promote international cooperation in space activities, to organize mutual exchange and dissemination of information on outer space research, to encourage and assist the development of national space programmes and to study the nature of legal problems that might arise from the exploration of outer space. That mandate was reaffirmed by the Assembly in its resolution 1721 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, in which it confirmed its belief that the United Nations should provide a focal point for international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. The Assembly requested the Committee, in cooperation with the Secretary-General and making full use of the Secretariat, to maintain close contact with organizations concerned with space activities, as well as to provide for information exchange and assistance in the study of measures for promoting international cooperation in space. Those resolutions, along with the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held in 1982 (UNISPACE 82), are the basis for activities that have evolved under programme 3, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 (A/51/6/Rev.1).

4.2 Since UNISPACE 82, the scope and importance of space applications have expanded from a narrow field of science and technology to a wide range of applications that are essential to operational communications, weather forecasting, resource management, prevention and mitigation of disaster, environmental monitoring, distance education and other social and economic activities in virtually every country. Space technology has now become an integral part of daily human activities and will become vital for the betterment of the human condition in the coming years.

4.3 In recent years, there has been a sharply increasing demand from developing countries for technical assistance in the development of indigenous capability, in particular by providing more training opportunities in the use of space technology and technical advice in implementing pilot projects. On the basis of a survey of views of Member States on the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, the Office for Outer Space Affairs will concentrate its activities on the priority areas of space applications identified by Member States, such as disaster relief and mitigation, protection of the environment and land and water resource management, which will contribute to sustainable development at the regional and global levels. Further efforts will also be made to promote the use of space technology in conducting United Nations development activities in an effective and efficient manner. In order to achieve that objective, due consideration will be given to the recommendations of recent United Nations conferences, in particular the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, at which space technology was identified as a useful tool to monitor the environment and to promote sustainable development.

4.4 International cooperation in the use of space technology has been viewed by the United Nations as an important part of efforts to promote sustainable development and it will need to be enhanced further in order to ensure that new space technologies benefit all countries and do not increase the gap between the

rich and the poor. As a result of these expansions in space activities and the changing international political environment, the United Nations will have to address important new political, economic, technological and legal issues.

4.5 In the light of the above, the General Assembly, in its resolution 51/122 of 13 December 1996, adopted the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries, which, along with four other sets of principles and five international treaties, constitutes the legal framework developed by the United Nations for space activities. The Assembly also decided, in its resolution 51/123, also of 13 December 1996, to hold a special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space open to all Member States of the United Nations (UNISPACE III) in 1999 or 2000, and requested the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to act as the Preparatory and Advisory Committees, respectively, for UNISPACE III. Substantive preparatory work will be conducted during the biennium 1998-1999 by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, which was requested by the Assembly to act as the executive secretariat for UNISPACE III. In accordance with a recommendation by the Assembly, UNISPACE III will be organized in such a manner as to allow for the widest possible participation, involving intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private industry, as appropriate, and the Office will coordinate preparatory activities in cooperation with those organizations.

Table 4.1 **Summary by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	3 815.6	3 703.9	(12.9)	(0.3)	3 691.0	38.4	3 729.4
Other staff costs	6.5	6.6	45.7	692.4	52.3	0.6	52.9
Consultants and experts	14.5	18.6	—	—	18.6	0.3	18.9
Travel	77.8	91.4	9.1	9.9	100.5	1.7	102.2
General operating expenses	—	—	10.9	—	10.9	0.2	11.1
Hospitality	—	1.8	1.6	88.8	3.4	—	3.4
Supplies and materials	2.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture and equipment	—	9.5	13.2	138.9	22.7	0.1	22.8
Grants and contributions	430.0	344.6	136.4	39.5	481.0	7.2	488.2
Total	**4 346.6**	**4 176.4**	**204.0**	**4.8**	**4 380.4**	**48.5**	**4 428.9**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1994-1995 expenditures	*1996-1997 estimates*	*Object of expenditure*	*1998-1999 estimates*
1.4	2.0	Other staff costs	16.0
27.4	9.8	Consultants and experts	12.0
98.5	106.4	Travel	80.0
—	3.0	Supplies and materials	2.0
—	3.0	Furniture and equipment	—
168.9	585.0	Grants and contributions	350.0
296.2	**709.2**		**460.0**
4 642.8	**4 885.6**		**4 888.9**

Table 4.2 **Post requirements**

Programme: Peaceful uses of outer space

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1996-1997	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*
Professional category and above								
D-2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
D-1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-5	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2
P-4/3	8	8	—	—	—	—	8	8
P-2/1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total	**13**	**13**	—	—	—	—	**13**	**13**
General Service category								
Other levels	6	5	—	—	—	—	6	5
Total	**6**	**5**	—	—	—	—	**6**	**5**
Grand total	**19**	**18**	—	—	—	—	**19**	**18**

Programme of work

4.6 The programme will be implemented by the Office for Outer Space Affairs. It will carry out activities described in the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 and work towards the new goals mandated by the General Assembly and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space arising from recent international developments.

4.7 The major activities of the Office will include:

(a) Servicing the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies, the Working Group of the Whole on space-related agenda items of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly, as well as the Preparatory and Advisory Committees for UNISPACE III;

(b) Implementing activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications by organizing training activities and implementing pilot projects for developing countries and providing advisory services in the priority areas of space applications as identified by Member States;

(c) Serving as a focal point for the coordination of space activities among the organizations within the United Nations system and other international organizations by disseminating space related information with the expanded use of advanced information technology.

Activities

4.8 During the biennium the following activities will be undertaken:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

(i) General Assembly

a. *Parliamentary documentation*. Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its forty-first and forty-second sessions (1998-1999); and report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of recommendations of UNISPACE 82 (1998-1999);

b. *Substantive service*. Working Group of the Whole on space-related agenda items of the Fourth Committee (2 meetings per year, 1998 and 1999);

(ii) Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

a. *Parliamentary documentation*. Draft reports of the Committee on its forty-first and forty-second sessions (5 or 6 reports per year, 1998 and 1999); report of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on its thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions (1998-1999); report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions (1998-1999); scientific and technical presentations at the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (1998-1999); conference room papers (8 per year, 1998 and 1999); draft report of the Advisory Committee of UNISPACE III (one report, 1998); and reports concerning organizational aspects prior to UNISPACE III (5 reports, 1998);

b. *Substantive servicing*. Plenary of the Committee and Preparatory Committee for UNISPACE III (1998-1999) (12-15 plenary meetings and 4 or 5 meetings of the Preparatory Committee each year);

(iii) Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

a. *Parliamentary documentation*. Draft reports of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on its thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions and draft reports of the working groups of the Subcommittee (7 or 8 reports per year, 1998 and 1999); legal studies relating to agenda items of the Subcommittee (2 or 3 studies per year, 1998 and 1999); and conference room papers (8 per year, 1998 and 1999);

b. *Substantive servicing*. Plenary and working groups (15 plenary and 15 working group meetings per year, 1998 and 1999);

c. *Other services: maintenance of a public register on objects launched into outer space*. Maintenance of a public register and database of information furnished to Member States in the A/AC.105/INF and ST/SC/SER.E series of documents in accordance with the United Nations Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (20-30 submissions expected from Member States, 1998 and 1999);

(iv) Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

a. *Parliamentary documentation*. Draft reports of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions and draft reports of the working groups of the Subcommittee (7 or 8 reports per year, 1998 and 1999); report of the United Nations Expert on Space Applications (1998 and 1999); reports of workshops, training courses, symposia, conferences and seminars organized under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (5-7 reports per year, 1998 and 1999); reports containing submissions by Member States and international organizations on their national space activities (3-6 reports containing 10-15 submissions per year, 1998 and 1999); reports containing submissions by Member States and international organizations on their research on space debris and the use of nuclear power sources in outer space (2-4 reports containing 5 or 6 submissions per year, 1998 and 1999); technical studies relating to agenda items of the Subcommittee (2 or 3 studies, 1998); draft report of the Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III (one report, 1998); reports concerning organizational aspects for UNISPACE III (15 reports, 1998; 10 reports, 1999); abstracts of national papers to be submitted by Member States to UNISPACE III and to be compiled by the Secretariat (45-50 reports, 1998; 10 reports, 1999); background papers on specific topics to be addressed at UNISPACE III (10-20 papers, 1998; 2-4 reports, 1999); and conference room papers (8 per year, 1998 and 1999);

b. *Substantive servicing*. Plenary and working groups of the Subcommittee and the Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III (14-16 plenary, 4-6 working groups and 5 or 6 Advisory Committee meetings per year, 1998 and 1999);

(b) Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

(i) *Recurrent publications*. *Seminars of the United Nations: Selected Papers on Remote Sensing, Satellite Communications and Space Science* (1998-1999); *Highlights in Space: Progress in Space Science, Technology and Applications, International Cooperation and Space Law* (1998-1999); updates of the following directories: *Directory of Fellowships for Education and Training* (one, 1998-1999), *Directory of Experts* (one, 1998-1999) and *Directory of Information Systems on Space Science and Technology* (one, 1998-1999); and an update of the *United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space* (1998-1999);

(ii) *Non-recurrent publications*. Update of *Space Activities of the United Nations and International Organizations* (1998); special publications, articles and reviews relating to United Nations space activities (4-6 per year, 1998 and 1999); publications, displays and educational materials for distribution at United Nations seminars, exhibits, guided tours, lectures and workshops (2-3 per year, 1998 and 1999); and maintenance of a permanent exhibit on the benefits of space technology for improving life on Earth and for protecting the environment at the Vienna International Centre (1998-1999);

(iii) *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts and information kits*. Booklet on the status of space technology for development (1998); booklet for UNISPACE III (1998); booklets on the activities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (1998-1999); and information kits on UNISPACE III (1999);

(iv) *Technical material*. Internet HomePage on the Office for Outer Space Affairs (1998-1999); update of the database on participants in the activities of the Programme on Space Applications (1998-1999); and maintenance of the database for and operation of the *International Space Information Service (ISIS)*;

(c) International Cooperation and Inter-Agency Coordination and Liaison (RB)

(i) Substantive servicing of the annual Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (5 meetings per year, 1998 and 1999);

(ii) Annual report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities;

(iii) Coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system: programme of work for 1998 and 1999 and future years (1998), and for 1999 and 2000 and future years (1999);

(iv) Maintenance and improvement of the Internet HomePage, to serve as the coordinating node for information relating to space-related activities of the organizations of the United Nations system;

(v) Advisory services to other offices in the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of their activities with the use of appropriate space applications (1998-1999);

(vi) Coordination of preparatory activities among the organizations of the United Nations system for UNISPACE III (1998-1999);

(vii) Participation in six to eight meetings of space-related international and regional intergovernmental organizations;

(viii) Participation in six to eight meetings of space-related international and regional non-governmental organizations;

(d) Conference services (RB)

Library services. Information, reference and other library services to Member States, other United Nations offices and other organizations through the specialized Office for Outer Space Affairs Reference Centre, providing outer-space-related scientific, technical and legal information, upon request (1998-1999);

(e) Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

(i) *Advisory services*. Provision of technical advisory services to Member States on satellite communications, remote sensing, basic space science and satellite meteorology and environmental

monitoring to support national and regional programmes and projects in these fields, upon request (7 or 8 annually, 1998 and 1999).

The following technical advisory services are expected in the biennium 1998-1999:

a. Assistance to the *pro tempore* secretariat of the Third Space Conference of the Americas in implementing the Plan of Action adopted at the Conference and follow-up projects;

b. Assistance to small island developing States in implementing a project to integrate space technology into an integrated coastal area risk assessment and management system;

c. Technical advisory assistance relating to the establishment and implementation of a cooperative information network linking scientists, educators and professionals in Africa;

d. Follow-up activities to the Second Regional Conference on Space Technology for Sustainable Development in Africa;

e. Follow-up activities to a series of international training courses on applications of European remote-sensing satellites and implementation of pilot projects;

f. Follow-up activities to a series of United Nations basic space science workshops;

g. Technical advisory services to the regional centres for space science and technology education, established on the basis of affiliation to the United Nations in the regions covered by the regional economic commissions, in planning and implementing training activities

(ii) *Group training (workshops, training courses, symposia and seminars)*

a. Workshops and meetings of experts each year in various regions of the world for participants from developing countries on selected topics of space science and technology and its applications (4 or 5 per year, 1998 and 1999);

b. Training courses for participants from developing countries on selected topics dealing with remote sensing, communications, satellite meteorology and space science (2 or 3 per year, 1998 and 1999);

(iii) *Fellowships*. Administration of 15 to 20 long-term international fellowships in the field of space science and technology offered by Member States as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (1998 and 1999).

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

4.9 The estimated requirements ($3,691,000) reflect a negative resource growth of $12,900 owing to the net effect of the abolition of one General Service (Other level) post offset in part by application of new standardized vacancy rates. This would cover continued provisions for 18 established posts. The Office will endeavour to maintain the level of services and outputs by reassigning the functions of the abolished post to other posts and by use of general temporary assistance as appropriate.

Other staff costs

4.10 Provisions of $52,300, including an increase of $45,700, would cover general temporary assistance requirements for replacement of staff on maternity or sick leave and during periods of peak workload prior to and during the meetings of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical and Legal Subcommittees and their subsidiary bodies, as well as activities related to workshops, seminars and training courses organized under the Programme on Space Applications. The increase would also meet staffing requirements emanating from preparation for UNISPACE III.

Consultants and experts

4.11 The estimated requirements of $18,600 would provide for the preparation of yearly summaries of advances in space science and technology, international cooperation and space law for the Scientific and Technical and Legal Subcommittees. They would also cover technical and legal studies that could not otherwise be undertaken within the Office for Outer Space Affairs. The studies would cover specialized topics such as

technical and eventual legal issues associated with space debris and low Earth-orbiting satellites for communications, environmental monitoring and applications to resource management.

Travel

4.12 The estimated requirements of $100,500, including an increase of $9,100, would provide for the participation of the Expert on Space Applications and the staff of the Office to supervise and conduct seminars, training courses and workshops in the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. Activities envisaged in relation to preparation for UNISPACE III to be conducted under the Programme contribute to the growth. Travel will also be undertaken to Headquarters to service the Working Group of the Whole of the Fourth Committee on the agenda item entitled "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space". The provision of technical advisory services to established and proposed regional centres for space science and technology education would also require travel to be undertaken.

General operating expenses

4.13 The provision ($10,900) under this heading would cover the maintenance of data-processing equipment, which were heretofore provided for under section 26E, Administration, Vienna.

Hospitality

4.14 During the annual sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and visits by representatives of space agencies that contribute substantial financial and manpower resources to the work of the Programme on Space Applications, hospitality expenditures are incurred. It is proposed therefore to provide for such hospitality requirements in the biennium 1998-1999 in the amount of $3,400, including a resource growth of $1,600 arising from the restoration of the initial 1996-1997 level, which is required in view of the preparations for UNISPACE III.

Furniture and equipment

4.15 The estimated requirements of $22,700 would provide for the replacement of office automation equipment. The resource growth ($13,200) previously included under section 26G, Administration, Vienna, is proposed for redeployment from that Office.

Grants and contributions

4.16 The requirements of $481,000 relate to the implementation of the activities of the Programme on Space Applications. They would finance the participation of individuals from developing countries from various regions of the world in workshops, meetings of experts and training courses. While the number of activities was curtailed in the biennium 1996-1997 by two, it is anticipated that the proposed growth of $136,400 would allow implementation of the regular level of approximately seven such activities annually, essentially restoring almost entirely previous provisions made for the Programme. The regular budget resources provided for the Programme are supplemented by contributions made to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.